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**MANHATTAN FEDERAL JURY FINDS FIVE MEN GUILTY FOR
PARTICIPATION IN WAVE OF VIOLENT CRIME IN WESTCHESTER**

DAVID N. KELLEY, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, MARK J. MARSHON, the Assistant Director in Charge of the New York Office of the FBI, and JEANINE PIRRO, Westchester County District Attorney, announced today that ANGELO DIPIETRO, a/k/a "Fat Angelo," ANGELO CAPALBO, a/k/a "Angelina," MICHAEL PIZZUTI, HAROLD BRINGMAN, and JOSEPH GENUA were found guilty after a 12-week jury trial in Manhattan federal court of a series of violent crimes that took place largely in Westchester County, including conspiracy to commit extortion, extortion, attempted extortion, using firearms in connection with crimes of violence, obstruction of justice, conspiracy to commit robbery, attempted robbery, conspiracy to collect and the collection of extensions of credit by extortionate means (more

commonly known as loansharking), and conspiracy to transport stolen property interstate.

The evidence at trial demonstrated that during the summer of 2001, all five defendants participated in efforts to extort money from John Perazzo. Perazzo was a purported financial adviser who was convicted in 2002 in New York State Supreme Court, Westchester County, of multiple counts of grand larceny resulting from the operation of a fraudulent pyramid scheme in which Perazzo paid old investors with money provided by newly recruited investors. The evidence at the recently concluded federal trial showed that all five defendants sought to obtain the proceeds of John Perazzo's pyramid scheme by threats of violence, actual violence, and using firearms.

For example, the evidence demonstrated that on June 29, 2001, DIPIETRO, CAPALBO, GENUA, and others planned and executed the kidnapping of Perazzo at the Applebee's restaurant at the Cross County Shopping Center in Yonkers, New York. After he was kidnapped Perazzo was taken to the former residence of DIPIETRO on Archer Avenue in Mount Vernon, New York, and was physically threatened for hours with firearms and M-80 fireworks until he provided money to DIPIETRO, CAPALBO, GENUA, and others. The evidence also demonstrated that on July 9 and 10, 2001, DIPIETRO, CAPALBO, and others participated in an armed confrontation at the former home of Perazzo on Sammis Lane in White Plains, New York, with a rival

group, led by PIZZUTI and including BRINGMAN, that was also seeking to extort money from Perazzo.

The evidence showed that, after the armed confrontation, Perazzo was kidnapped, again, at gunpoint by PIZZUTI. Perazzo was forced into BRINGMAN's car and driven to a motel in Rockland County following a high speed chase down the Hutchinson Parkway by two associates of DIPIETRO and CAPALBO who fired shots at BRINGMAN, hitting his car. County police, who observed the speeding, pursued DIPIETRO and CAPALBO's two associates, who made a sharp turn off the Parkway, crashed their automobile, and escaped on foot. The evidence further showed that, after this evening of violence, the two rival extortionate groups declared a truce and decided to work together to extort money from Perazzo.

CAPALBO, PIZZUTI, and BRINGMAN also obstructed justice by deleting electronic files on Perazzo's home computer in an effort to eliminate traces of their extortionate efforts. The evidence demonstrated that the efforts to extort Perazzo did not cease until Perazzo was arrested on August 31, 2001.

The evidence also showed that during the same period of time, DIPIETRO and CAPALBO planned and participated in numerous burglaries and home invasions in Westchester County, including in Dobbs Ferry, Yonkers, Mamaroneck, and Eastchester, New York,

among other locations. In planning and executing these robberies, DIPIETRO and CAPALBO often utilized the assistance of juveniles in an attempt to steal money and valuables from victims who, in many cases, were individuals known to DIPIETRO and CAPALBO. In particular, DIPIETRO was convicted of planning and executing the July 18, 2001, armed home invasion of the residence of some of his own relatives on Wilmot Road in Eastchester, New York, during which two women were physically harmed. In addition, CAPALBO was convicted of planning and executing the July 19, 2001, burglary of the Boca Raton, Florida, home of Al Mosiello, a now-deceased Yonkers attorney who once performed legal work for CAPALBO.

Finally, the evidence at trial demonstrated that DIPIETRO and BRINGMAN worked together as loansharks, using threats of violence to collect debts, including illegal debts arising from an illegal sports bookmaking operation formerly operated by DIPIETRO and others in Port Chester, New York.

As a result of today's verdicts, Defendant DIPIETRO faces, among other penalties, a maximum sentence of life imprisonment, with a minimum sentence of 32 years' imprisonment. CAPALBO faces, among other penalties, a maximum sentence of life imprisonment, with a mandatory minimum sentence of 7 years' imprisonment. PIZZUTI faces, among other penalties, a maximum

sentence of life imprisonment with a mandatory minimum sentence of 7 years' imprisonment. BRINGMAN and GENUA each face, among other penalties, a maximum sentence of 40 years' imprisonment.

After the guilty verdicts were announced today, CAPALBO, PIZZUTI, BRINGMAN, and GENUA were remanded to the custody of the United States Marshal Service to await sentencing. DIPIETRO also remained in custody.

ANGELO DIPIETRO, 48, the former proprietor of Green Apples Eatery in Mount Vernon, New York, formerly lived in Mount Vernon, New York, and now lives in Hopewell Junction, New York. ANGELO CAPALBO, 45, the proprietor of Angelina's Restaurant in Tuckahoe, New York, currently lives in White Plains, New York. MICHAEL PIZZUTI, 40, the former proprietor of Gabriella's Cafe and Don Emilio's Restaurant in Mount Vernon, New York, currently lives in Eastchester, New York. HAROLD BRINGMAN, 60, currently lives in New Rochelle, New York. JOSEPH GENUA, 49, currently lives in Mount Vernon, New York.

Mr. KELLEY praised the efforts of the FBI, the Westchester County District Attorney's Office, the New York State Police and the Mount Vernon Police Department in the investigation and prosecution of these crimes.

Assistant United States Attorneys TIMOTHY J. TREANOR
and ERIC B. BRUCE are in charge of the prosecution.

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